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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group art unit: 3656  
Examiner: James Pilkington

In Re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Applicant(s): Ryouichi TOKIOKA et al.

Serial No.: 10/590,570

Filing date: August 24, 2006

For: EXPANDABLE SHAFT

Atty. ref.: AI 422NP



**INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT AND  
CERTIFICATION**

January 6, 2009

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted in compliance with the timing requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), i.e. prior to a first Office Action on the merits.

Attached are copies of a WIPO patent document and a European patent document, which were cited in the attached European Search Report, mailed on November 3, 2008, that was issued in connection with the corresponding European patent application No. 05783173.7. Also attached is an English-language abstract of the WIPO document, from which any relevance of the document can be gleaned. Any further relevance of the documents can be gleaned from the Search Report. The documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Also listed for consideration on the attached Form PTO-1449 is a US patent application publication number US 2007/0157754 A1, which corresponds to the WIPO patent document, and a US patent No. 6,343,993 B1, which corresponds to the European patent document, and from which any further relevance of the documents can be gleaned.

It is hereby certified that each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

Since this IDS is being filed before a first Office Action on the merits, no fee is required, and the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 are deemed to be fully met as to all listed documents. Consideration of the listed documents is respectfully requested.

Should any fee be required, however, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and is requested to advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

January 6, 2009

Date

Robert H. Berdo, Jr. – Reg. No. 38, 075  
RABIN & BERDO, PC – Customer No. 23995  
Telephone: (202) 371-8976  
Fax: (202) 408-0924

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